

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05

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P R 160600Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5072

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DIA WASHDC/AH

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 5252

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MASS, PFOR, LA, US

SUBJ: MILITARY RICE FOR LAOS

REF: A. STATE 194213

B. BANGKOK 16908 (RPTD VIENTIANE AS STATE 194212)

C. VIENTIANE 5211

D. VIENTIANE 4700

1. THE BASIC RATIONALE FOR OUR CONTINUING FOR A SHORT TIME TO SUPPLY RICE PURCHASED WITH FY 75 RPT 75 MAP FUNDS TO FORMER FORCES ARMEES ROYALES -- INCLUDING AN ALLOCATION FOR JULY 75, BUT NOT THEREAFTER -- WAS SET FORTH IN REF D AND HAS NOT RPT NOT CHANGED. IN ESSENCE, IT IS THAT OUR COMMITMENT TO SUPPLY A JULY RICE ALLOCATION WAS GIVEN ON/ABOUT JUNE 20, 1975, BEFORE RPT BEFORE IT BECAME ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT PGNU WAS UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE ORDERLY TERMINATION OF USAID MISSION TO LAOS AND BEFORE WE RECEIVED PGNU NOTE OF JUNE 26 STAT-ING THAT PERSONNEL CONNECTED WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS COULD NOT RPT NOT REMAIN IN LAOS. WASHINGTON CONCURRED IN APPROACH OUTLINED REF D (SEE STATE 159715 AND SECDEF 4885 OF 251501Z JUL 75). OTHER ASPECTS OF
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THIS TOPIC HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN SUCH MESSAGES AS

BANGKOK 14097 AND VIENTIANE 4871 AND 4897 IN REPLY.

2. WHILE PGNU CONDUCT HAS CONTINUED TO BE OUTRAGEOUS, USG HAS TAKEN POSITION WE SHOULD NOT PENALIZE THE LAO BY UNDERCUTTING PROGRAMS TO WHICH WE HAD COMMITTED OURSELVES IN PERIOD BEFORE RELATIONS DETERIORATED TO PRESENT LEVEL. THUS WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, SIGNED 1975 FEOF AGREEMENT (BUT HAVE MADE NO FURTHER SUBSCRIPTION BEYOND THE \$5 MILLION DEPOSITED BACK IN APRIL); TURNED OVER THE USAID PROJECT-FUNDED MATERIALS ALREADY IN LAOS, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO SHIP OUT IN ANY EVENT (BUT HAVE CATEGORICALLY REFUSED PGNU REQUEST FOR DELIVERY OF USAID MATERIALS IN PIPELINE WHICH SAID TO BE ALREADY IN THAILAND); AND SO FORTH. WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE SUSTAINED OUR VIEWS IN EACH OF THESE INSTANCES.

3. WE AGREE THAT PGNU POSITION WITH RESPECT TO PERSONAL PROPERTY OF USG EMPLOYEES AND OTHER NON-USAID ITEMS LOCATED AT FORMER USAID FACILITIES (FINALLY STATED FORMALLY IN MFA NOTE REPORTED REF C) MAY WELL CONSTITUTE EXPROPRIATION WITHIN MEANING OF SECTION 620(E) OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE DONE WORSE THINGS, INCLUDING SEIZURE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY, SUBJECTION OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES TO PRESSURE OF MOB DEMONSTRATIONS DURING NEGOTIATIONS, AND ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS FIRING WEAPONS AT EMBASSY OFFICERS. POINT IS WE ARE LONG PAST STAGE HERE WHERE WE CAN, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, RESPOND TO INDIVIDUAL ILLEGAL ACTS BY INDIVIDUAL TIT FOR TAT INVOCATION OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS. RATHER WE ARE NOW ADDRESSING THE BROAD QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN CONTINUE TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE PGNU WITHOUT PAYING TOO GREAT A PRICE THEREFOR. IN ORDER TO REACH THIS DETERMINATION WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO OBSERVE AND ANALYZE THE WHOLE RANGE OF PGNU ACTIONS AND REACTIONS IN REGARD TO OUR CONTINUED DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE HERE. WE WILL BE SUBMITTING COMPREHENSIVE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN A FEW WEEKS.

4. IN THE INTERIM, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH POLICIES FOLLOWED IN RELATED INSTANCES (PARA 2, ABOVE) AND SHOULD CONTINUE FINAL DELIVERIES OF FY 75 MAP RICE WHICH ARE CURRENTLY UNDER WAY. WE HAVE ALREADY
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TERMINATED THE MAP PROGRAM IN LAOS, AND TO SUSPEND THE FEW REMAINING DELIVERIES WOULD GAIN US NOTHING.

5. FOR BANGKOK: REQUEST YOU INCLUDE THIS EMBASSY AS INFO ADDRESSEE IN ORIGINAL TRANSMISSION OF FUTURE MESSAGES RELATED TO USG POLICY TOWARD LAOS.
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